

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A device for mobile use as a readily portable device for intermittent compression of human extremities for assisting the return of body fluid in the direction of the heart, said device comprising a cuff adapted for application to an extremity for stimulating the return flow of venous blood and a miniature pressure generator for intermittent pressurization of the cuff, wherein said miniature pressure generator is secured directly to the cuff and pressurizes said cuff with an overpressure, compared to atmospheric pressure, in a range between 20 mm Hg and 100 mm Hg, and wherein said cuff has, in the direction of return flow, a width of at most 25 centimeters and is configured as a single-chamber system.
2. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said cuff corresponds to a cuff as used for blood pressure measurements.
3. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said pressure generator is a roller pump.
4. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a pressure control means, which connects a cuff chamber defined by said cuff to the atmosphere when a pressure therein exceeds a predefined overpressure, compared to atmospheric pressure.
5. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 4, wherein said pressure control means comprises an outlet valve forming an overpressure outlet for said cuff, said overpressure outlet being open, except when said pressure generator pressurizes said cuff.
6. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 4, wherein said pressure control means comprises a restrictor in a conduit between said pressure generator and said cuff, and an outlet valve with a stopper, which, in a first position, releases an outlet to the atmosphere, and, in a second position, blocks said outlet, said stopper assuming these positions as a function of the difference in pressure between an inlet and an outlet of said restrictor.
7. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a controller which switches said pressure generator ON/OFF, thereby pressurizing

said cuff with a defined or definable pressure amplitude and a defined or definable repetition frequency.

8. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 7, wherein said controller is designed to vary at least one of said pressure amplitude and said repetition frequency.

9. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the overpressure of said cuff, compared to atmospheric pressure, ranges between 25 mm Hg and 80 mm Hg.

10. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said cuff is pressurized 1 to 10 times per minute.

11. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said cuff is pressurized 1 to 15 times per 5 minutes.

12. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1 further comprising means for uncoupling said pressure generator from said cuff.

13. (Cancel)

14. (Previously Presented) A method for stimulating the flow of body fluid comprising the steps of:

applying a cuff to an extremity, wherein said cuff has, in the direction of return flow of venous blood, a width of at most 25 centimeters and is configured as a single-chamber system; and

intermittently pressurizing said cuff by a miniature pressure generator, wherein the steps of applying said cuff to an extremity and intermittently pressurizing said cuff stimulates the return flow of venous blood, wherein said miniature pressure generator is secured directly to the cuff and pressurizes said cuff with an overpressure, compared to atmospheric pressure, in a range between 20 mm Hg and 100 mm Hg.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the step of intermittently pressurizing said cuff comprises a controller actuating a pressure

generator to pressurize said cuff with a defined or definable pressure amplitude and a defined or definable repetition frequency.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 15, wherein said controller varies at least one of said pressure amplitude and said repetition frequency.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the step of intermittently pressurizing said cuff comprises pressurizing said cuff 1 to 10 times per minute.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the step of intermittently pressurizing said cuff comprises pressurizing said cuff 1 to 15 times per 5 minutes.

19. (Cancel)

20. (Cancel)

21. (Cancel)

22. (Cancel)

23. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a hook and loop fastener for directly securing said miniature pressure generator to the cuff.

24. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said miniature pressure generator is accommodated in a pouch on the outside of the cuff.

25. (Cancel)

26. (Cancel)

27. (Previously Presented) The device as set forth in claim 9, wherein the overpressure of said cuff, compared to atmospheric pressure, ranges between 40 mm Hg and 60 mm Hg.

28. (Currently Amended) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the overpressure is in the range of between about 25 mm Hg to about 60 mm Hg ~~or below~~.

29. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the overpressure is in the range of between about 25 mm Hg to about 60 mm Hg ~~or below~~.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the extremity is the calf muscle of a lower leg.

31. (Previously Presented) A device for mobile use as a readily portable device for intermittent compression of human extremities for assisting the return flow of body fluid in the direction of the heart, said device comprising:

a cuff adapted for application to an extremity for stimulating the return flow of venous blood, wherein said cuff has, in the direction of return flow, a width of at most 25 centimeters and is configured as a single-chamber system;

a miniature pressure generator for intermittent pressurization of said cuff, wherein said miniature pressure generator pressurizes said cuff with an overpressure, compared to atmospheric pressure, in a range between 20 mm Hg and 100 mm Hg; and

an elastic band with a hook and loop fastener for securing said miniature pressure generator to a suitable location on the clothing.

32. (Previously Presented) A device for mobile use as a readily portable device for intermittent compression of human extremities for assisting the return flow of body fluid in the direction of the heart, said device comprising:

a cuff adapted for application to an extremity for stimulating the return flow of venous blood, wherein said cuff has, in the direction of return flow, a width of at most 25 centimeters and is configured as a single-chamber system;

a miniature pressure generator for intermittent pressurization of said cuff, wherein said miniature pressure generator pressurizes said cuff with an overpressure, compared to atmospheric pressure, in a range between 20 mm Hg and 100 mm Hg; and

an elastic band with a hook and loop fastener for securing said miniature pressure generator to a suitable location on the body.

33. (Previously Presented). A method for stimulating the flow of body fluid comprising the steps of:

applying a cuff to an extremity, wherein said cuff has, in the direction of return flow of venous blood, a width of at most 25 centimeters and is configured as a single-chamber system; and

intermittently pressurizing said cuff with a miniature pressure generator to stimulate the return flow of venous blood, wherein said miniature pressure generator pressurizes said cuff with an overpressure, compared to atmospheric pressure, in a range between 20 mm Hg and 100 mm Hg, and wherein said miniature pressure generator has an elastic band with a hook and loop fastener for securing said miniature pressure generator to a suitable location on the clothing.

34. (Previously Presented) A method for stimulating the flow of body fluid comprising the steps of:

applying a cuff to an extremity, wherein said cuff has, in the direction of return flow of venous blood, a width of at most 25 centimeters and is configured as a single-chamber system; and

intermittently pressurizing said cuff with a miniature pressure generator to stimulate the return flow of venous blood, wherein said miniature pressure generator pressurizes said cuff with an overpressure, compared to atmospheric pressure, in a range between 20 mm Hg and 100 mm Hg, and wherein said miniature pressure generator has an elastic band with a hook and loop fastener for securing said miniature pressure generator to a suitable location on the body.